

**U.S. Department of Justice**

*United States Attorney  
Eastern District of Virginia*

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**NEWS RELEASE**

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Paul J. McNulty, United States Attorney for the Eastern District of Virginia, Donald L. Hundley, Chief of Police of the Portsmouth Police Department, Portsmouth, Virginia, and Michael E. Varnum, Special Agent in Charge of the Norfolk Division of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, announced today the indictment of seven individuals charged in connection with a conspiracy to possess and distribute cocaine.

The Federal Grand Jury indictment, which was unsealed today in Norfolk, Virginia, charged Keith Jay Bullock, age 41, and David Toma Pitt, age 28, both residents of Chesapeake, Virginia, Shawn Detonio Copeland, age 30, Tyrone Shante Harris, age 24, Demarkus Martice Harrison, age 26, Dashawn Kaleam Leary, age 24, and Jermaine Lewis, age 27, residents of Portsmouth, Virginia, with multiple counts relating to the possession, distribution and conspiracy to distribute cocaine and crack cocaine and for possession of firearms during and in furtherance of drug trafficking crimes. The indictment alleges that the subjects engaged in the illegal activities of procuring, "cutting," packaging and distributing cocaine from the fall of 1995 to the present. Four federal search warrants were executed in connection with the investigation, including one commercial and three residential addresses. Five of the seven indicted subjects were arrested earlier this morning without incident. A substance believed to be cocaine was found in a funeral home.

The indictment and arrests culminate a two year investigation conducted by members of the Norfolk FBI/Portsmouth Police Department Safe Streets Violent Crimes Task Force of a multi-kilogram cocaine distribution organization in Portsmouth, Chesapeake and Norfolk, Virginia. To date, the Violent Crimes Task Force has been responsible for investigations in the Tidewater area which have resulted in charges being brought against more than fifty individuals since its inception in 1995 under the FBI's Safe Streets Initiative. Assistant United States Attorney Laura Everhart is handling the prosecution for the United States Attorney's Office.